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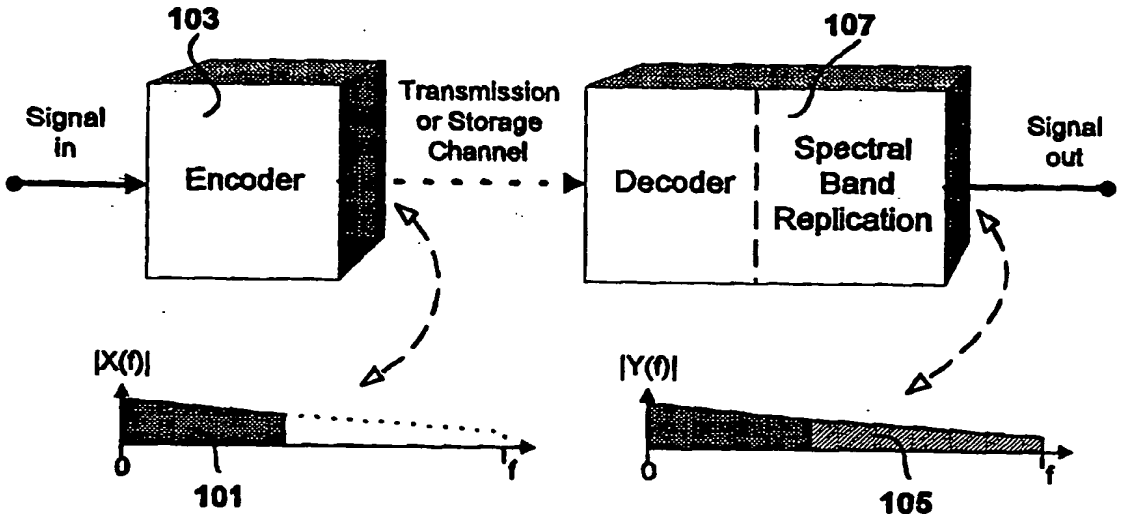
(54) Title: SOURCE CODING ENHANCEMENT USING SPECTRAL–BAND REPLICATION



(57) Abstract

The present invention proposes a new method and apparatus for the enhancement f source coding systems. The invention employs bandwidth reduction (101) prior to or in the encoder (103), followed by spectral–band replicati n (105) at the decoder (107). This is accomplished by the use of new transposition methods, in combination with spectral envelope adjustments. Reduced bitrate at a given perceptual quality or an improved perceptual quality at a given bitrate is offered. The invention is preferably integrated in a hardware or software codec, but can also be implemented as a separate processor in combination with a codec. The invention offers substantial improvements practically independent of codec type and technological progress.